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DCR WILL HIRE 64 NEW STAFF MEMBERS FOR THE STATE'S BEACHES

The agency also is purchasing \$1 million in new beach maintenance and cleaning equipment

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today announced it will spend \$2.4 million to fill 64 new jobs for its coastal and inland beaches across the Commonwealth, and will invest another \$1 million in beach-cleaning and maintenance equipment at the ocean beaches in the metropolitan Boston area.

The new staff positions, recommended by the Legislature's Metropolitan Beaches Commission in its report earlier this year, are meant to increase the cleanliness, safety, and programming at the beaches. Several of the 64 new staff positions will be coordinators, each of whom will oversee a cluster of ocean beaches. The coordinators will supervise the work of beach staff members, and will be a personal, single point of contact for the community, Friends groups, and others.

Other positions will include laborers, maintenance equipment operators and mechanics, coastal ecologists, visitor services supervisors, recreation facilities repairers, beach program managers, horticulturalists, and rangers.

"We thank the Legislature enormously for recognizing the importance of providing DCR with the support and funding for these enhancements to the Commonwealth's two dozen ocean beaches and nearly 40 inland, freshwater beaches," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "We look forward to hiring the new staff members, and promoting members of the existing staff, who will become ambassadors for DCR and serve as the face of the agency. They will help support our mission of enhancing the experience of everyone who visits DCR properties."

State Senator Jack Hart, cochairman of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, said, "We are proud of the work of the Beaches Commission and very pleased to see it come to fruition with these new hires and equipment purchases. We look forward to the improvements to the beaches that will emerge from this rich collaboration that united the Legislature, the community, DCR, and beach advocates."

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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State Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein, cochairman of the Beaches Commission, said, “These new staff positions and equipment are critical, important additions to the state’s beaches, both inland and oceanfront. The residents of Massachusetts deserve the very best facilities we can provide, and this new infusion of money, manpower, and machines will help us achieve that goal.”

In the fall of 2005, the Legislature created the Metropolitan Beaches Commission to assess the state’s urban beaches from Nahant to Hull. The 18-member commission, which included legislators, local and state officials, and representatives from groups with related expertise, evaluated current conditions at the beaches and made recommendations to improve them.

During a series of public hearings and workshops in all of the beach communities, the commission collected information and opinions on the state of each beach and where beach-goers would like to see improvements. Cleanliness, public safety, and programming were the three areas most often mentioned as needing attention.

Last spring, DCR implemented maintenance schedules for each Boston-area property, which were posted on the agency’s website and outlined such areas as how often restrooms would be cleaned, grass would be cut, and beach sand would be sifted. Similar schedules were developed in the summer.

To help maintain the beaches, DCR will purchase about \$1 million in new beach equipment, including two tractor beach sanitizers; 20 Big Belly solar-powered trash compactors; several pick-up trucks, 5-ton trucks, and half-ton trucks; dog-waste bag dispensers; 66 trash barrels; two new storage sheds; outdoor information boards; and six new lifeguard chairs.

State Senator Anthony Petrucci, cochairman of the Beaches Commission, said, “This infusion of new staff and equipment has long been needed, is much anticipated, and will make a huge difference in the beach-going experience of the more than 1 million state residents who live within half an hour of one of our ocean beaches. I look forward to seeing the results of this investment.”

Some of the new jobs, which are all year-round positions, will be filled through the state’s civil service process. Others will be filled through the open, competitive interview process and will be posted on the employment page of the DCR website for three weeks, beginning today, December 7, 2007: www.mass.gov/dcr/employment.htm. That site also provides a link to the Commonwealth Employment Opportunities site that lists all state positions. Information for both processes is available at 617-626-1415.

DCR Commissioner Sullivan extends his thanks to all the members of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission who gave enormous time, energy, and vision to this effort. They are: Senator Jack Hart, cochairman; former State Representative, now State Senator Anthony Petrucci, cochairman; Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein, cochairman; Kip Becker, Boston University; Mark Cullinan, Nahant Town manager; Rosanne Foley, DotWell; Paul Grogan, the Boston Foundation; Douglas Gutro, Quincy City Council President; Carol Haney, Revere Beach Partnership; State Senator Robert Hedlund; State Representative Bradford Hill; Salvatore LaMattina, Boston City Councilor; Anthony Lozzi, City of Lynn; State Senator Thomas McGee; Joan Meschino, Hull Board of Selectmen; Secretary Daniel O'Connell, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development; Joseph Orfant, Department of Conservation and Recreation; and Richard White, Winthrop Town Manager.

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